

Zurich, February 2010

Swiss National Bank
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Swiss trade in services with foreign countries SNB to expand its survey – serviceBOP project

Second circular for associations and companies – preliminary survey

There are gaps in the coverage of the survey on Switzerland's trade in services with foreign countries. The Swiss National Bank (SNB) is therefore expanding the existing survey of companies. The expansion will be implemented as part of the *serviceBOP* project (cf. the first circular of December 2009).

In the first half of 2010, the SNB will carry out a preliminary survey on cross-border trade in services. Based on the results of the preliminary survey, the SNB will determine which companies are to report data in the future. In the preliminary survey, around 10,000 companies from all industries will be required to report data on their services exports and imports. The survey will be conducted via the internet; the confidentiality of data is ensured.

Content of preliminary survey

The preliminary survey will record total receipts from the sale of services abroad (exports of services) and total expenditure on purchases of services from abroad (imports of services). In addition, information will be collected on the main categories of services (share of each in total exports and imports of services). Finally, as regards merchanting business, gross income from sales of goods abroad will be recorded (cf. *Overview of the content of the preliminary survey, including examples* at <http://www.snb.ch/en/i/about/stat/servbop>). The preliminary survey will cover the 2009 calendar year.

Timeline and procedure for preliminary survey

The preliminary survey will be split into three batches. One month before the reporting deadline, companies will receive a letter containing the documents and information on the preliminary survey. The letter contains the information needed for the online transfer

of data to the SNB (URL, user name and one password for each company). The *overview of the content of the preliminary survey, including examples* will also be dispatched. The SNB will send the documents for the preliminary survey at the end of February 2010 to the first batch of around 3,500 companies. The reporting deadline is the end of March 2010. The second batch of around 3,500 companies is scheduled to receive the survey documents around the end of April 2010, with a reporting deadline of end-May. Whether or not the third batch of around 3,000 companies will be surveyed in its entirety will depend on the survey results from the first two batches; the decision on this will be taken at a later date.

Selection of companies for future surveys

Once the preliminary survey has been completed, the compiled data will be used to select the companies that will henceforth be regularly surveyed for data on cross-border trade in services. The SNB is working on the premise that a survey of around 2,500 companies should yield representative data on trade in services with foreign countries.

Longer-term plans

Taking the reporting population of around 2,500 companies as a basis, a trial survey of selected companies is planned for the second half of 2011. The definitive introduction of the expanded survey of trade in services with foreign countries is scheduled for 2012.

Enclosure

Overview of the content of the preliminary survey, including examples

This information can also be found at
http://www.snb.ch/en/iabout/stat/servbop/id/stat_sbop_act.

Further information

E-mail serviceBOP@snb.ch

Frequency of publication

The serviceBOP circular appears at irregular intervals, but at least once a year. It can be subscribed to electronically, free of charge (<http://www.snb.ch/en/mmr/servicebop/rss>).

Published by

Swiss National Bank

Statistics

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